

District of Columbia

District Response Plan

4 April 2002

FOREWORD

In response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, the District of Columbia (the District) government focused great effort to assess and revise city emergency plans. To expedite this effort, a Domestic Preparedness Task Force was established by Mayor's Order number 2001-142 dated September 19, 2001. The Task Force included heads of District agencies with public safety and emergency functions, as well as key related business, industry, college, and university representation. The focus of the Task Force was to examine the city's overall preparedness, existing emergency plans and procedures, and related training efforts. The Task Force and the Emergency Management Agency led the refining of the city's Emergency Operations Plan and other emergency plans to develop the District Response Plan (DRP). City agency personnel worked with their regional, federal, and non-governmental partners to clarify methods of interaction and operating processes, and to refine roles and responsibilities.

The DRP provides a new framework for District government entities to respond to public emergencies in the metropolitan Washington area. The DRP provides a unified structure for District emergency response operations to ensure a coordinated and effective operation. The plan describes how District agencies will work collaboratively within the District and with our regional and federal partners. The ultimate goal is to protect the public and respond efficiently and effectively to significant incidents that threaten life, property, public safety, and the environment in the District of Columbia.

The DRP design was based upon the functional structure of the Federal Response Plan (FRP) with recognition that for some disasters, the full capabilities of the federal government may be needed to confront the total response requirement. In those situations, should they arise, the response operations of the District will be complemented by those of our federal partners in support of the District and the Nation's Capital. It is also possible that our regional partners will be similarly impacted, directly or indirectly, and our plan considers regional cooperation as well. This plan is a policy document that will be accompanied by supporting annexes, and will be updated once a year at a minimum.

To institutionalize the Task Force effort on an ongoing nature, I established the Emergency Planning Council (EPC) by Mayor's Order number 2002-01 dated January 2, 2002. The EPC is co-chaired by the City Administrator and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, and consists of chief executives of agencies that have a role in planning for, responding to, and/or recovering from a public emergency affecting the District of Columbia. The EPC will coordinate recommendations for revisions to the District Response Plan, as well as periodic exercising of the plan.

The DRP must remain a dynamic and flexible document that will change and mature with each update. In order for the plan to be effective, it must be challenged, tested, and retested through real world operations and simulation exercises. It must reflect the knowledge gained from our experiences and lessons realized during disaster and

emergency situations. I am confident that it will perform its function as a tool to improve coordination and strengthen relationships among District, local, regional, and federal agencies with which we will operate in future emergencies. The partnerships forged during this planning process are the glue that will bind us together when faced with unknown challenges that lie ahead.

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor
District of Columbia

PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This District Response Plan will be a controlled and numbered document, and distribution of revised versions will be the responsibility of the District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency. Outdated versions of this plan should be destroyed when a new version is published so that only the most recent version is in circulation.

RECORD OF CHANGES

In future revisions, this page will provide a record of major changes made since the date of publishing the first draft, to keep the plan consistent with current policies.

Change Number	Date of Change	Part, Annex, or Attachment Changed	Posted By

The DRP will be available on the Emergency Management Agency website at <http://dcema.dc.gov>.

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LETTER OF AGREEMENT

The District Response Plan (DRP) describes the mechanism and structure by which the District government mobilizes resources and conducts activities to address the consequences of any major disaster or emergency within the boundaries of the District of Columbia. Local and state assistance is available through Mutual Aid Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Federal assistance is available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, as well as individual agency authorities, to save lives; protect public health, safety, property, and the environment; alleviate damage and hardship; and reduce future vulnerability.

By signing this letter of agreement, District agencies and organizations commit to:

- Support the DRP concept of operations and carry out their assigned functional responsibilities to ensure the orderly, timely delivery of assistance;
- Cooperate with the Mayor, Incident Commander, Consequence Management Team Director, and/or Federal Coordinating Officer appointed by the President to provide effective oversight of disaster operations;
- Make maximum use of existing authorities, organizations, resources, systems, and programs to reduce disaster relief costs;
- Form partnerships with counterpart local and state agencies, voluntary disaster relief organizations, and the private sector to take advantage of all existing resources; and
- Continue to develop and refine District and regional planning, exercise, and training activities to maintain necessary operational capabilities.


Signatory agencies and organizations are located on the following pages.

SIGNATORIES TO THE DISTRICT RESPONSE PLAN

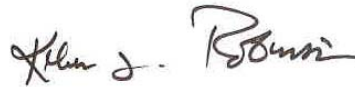


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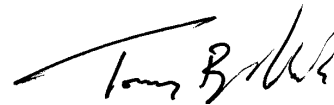
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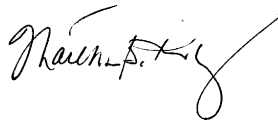
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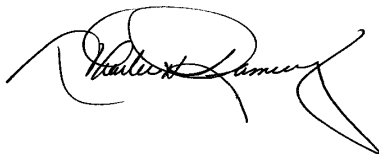
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